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extent of country, occupied by a brave & hardy Race of Indians, well acquainted with all the interior avenues leading into the Spanish Provinces, and always ready to receive his Majesty's forces, and to co-operate with them in every fatigue and danger for conquering and destroying the Spanish Government in America."

The President spoke of a letter recently received from our Corresponding Member, Mr. Almack, with some notes on our late published volumes, which he might at some future time read to the Society.

Dr. SHURTLEFF called attention to a portrait recently presented to the Society by Mrs. Webber, of Boston, for which the acknowledgments of the Society were ordered. On the back of a volume depicted in this portrait was inscribed "Book of Rates," but no one had yet discovered for whom the portrait was intended.

Mr. SALTONSTALL referred to a recent visit he had made to places on the coast of Maine, particularly to the old town of Castine, and recounted some of the historical reminiscences of that place.

Mr. SABINE, Dr. SHURTLEFF, and Mr. THOMAS C. AMORY made some observations on the subject introduced by Mr. Saltonstall.

OCTOBER MEETING, 1872.

A stated meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, the 10th instant, at 11 o'clock, A.M.; the President in the chair.

The records of the previous meeting were read.

The Librarian read the list of donors the past month to the Library.

The Corresponding Secretary read a letter of acceptance from M. D'Avezac, of Paris.

The President called special attention to Mr. Frothingham's new work, "The Rise of the Republic," then lying upon the table, — a gift from the author; and to Dr. Ellis's new edition of the "History of the Massachusetts General Hospital," presented by the trustees of that institution. He also noticed the recent decease of a Corresponding Member, Dr. Francis Lieber, in the following language: —

The recent death of Dr. Francis Lieber at New York,

where he had long resided, has been noticed in all our journals. His name was placed on our Corresponding Roll in January, 1858 ; and there are few names on that, or any other roll, which are associated with a more eventful career. Born in Berlin in 1800 ; a soldier of the Prussian Army at Waterloo ; a volunteer for the Independence of Greece in 1821 ; a scholar of the University of Jena ; a student in the family of the celebrated Niebuhr ; more than once arrested and imprisoned for his liberal, perhaps radical, utterances ; he at last was driven over to England at twenty-five years of age, and became a teacher in London. Two years afterwards he came to the United States, and resided for some time in Boston, where to the last he had many warm friends. Here he edited the "Conversations Lexicon ;" and, among other useful things, established a Swimming School. In 1835 he removed to South Carolina, and was for twenty-one years Professor of History and Political Economy at Columbia College. Thence he came to New York, where he has since resided for nine years as Professor of History in Columbia College in that city, and since then as the Professor of Law in the Law School connected with that college. Meantime, he has written many books and essays. His work on Civil Liberty and Self-Government, in two volumes, and his Manual of Political Ethics, were, perhaps, the most remarkable. He rendered many services to the Administration at Washington during the late Civil War, and wrote more than one considerable work on legal points connected with the government of the Union Armies.

He was a man of great capacity, of unwearied industry, and of many most attractive and amiable qualities. His sudden death at the age of seventy-two, when both his physical and mental powers seemed still so little impaired, could not fail to be deeply lamented ; and many most enviable tributes have already been paid to his memory. My friend, Mr. Hillard, who was his friend, also, is here to add another.

The President was followed by Mr. Hillard, who spoke as follows :—

MR. PRESIDENT,—Having for many years known Dr. Lieber intimately, I feel that there is a propriety in my responding to the call you have made on me, and in laying a tribute on the grave of my friend.

He was in many ways a remarkable man, and in his life there was variety of adventure and experience. He was at once an original thinker and a careful student. In early manhood his

connection with his own country was broken forever; and, after a brief sojourn in England, he began a new career in this country at the age of twenty-seven, starting in Boston. Here he gave proofs of great force of character and variety of intellectual power. He turned his hand to many things. He lectured, gave lessons, and even taught a swimming-school, being one of the earliest to give an impulse to physical training in this country. For some years he was steadily occupied in the preparation of the "Encyclopædia Americana," founded upon the "Conversations Lexicon" of Brockhaus, a work of great merit, not superseded by any productions of a similar class which have succeeded it.

Many subjects were treated by Dr. Lieber in the course of his long and active life. When I first knew him, he was much occupied with prison discipline, and translated the work of Beaumont and De Tocqueville on Prison Discipline in America. But the questions in which he took most interest, and to which his writings are mainly devoted, were those connected with law, government, and politics. The principal works he wrote on these subjects, and on which his reputation mainly rests, are his "Manual of Political Ethics," his "Legal and Political Hermeneutics," and his "Civil Liberty and Self-government." These all have a certain family likeness and are characterized by the same traits of thought and style. In all of them his aim and purpose were to expound the character, and enforce the claims of Anglican liberty, as manifested in the institutions of England and America, and to point out the evils and dangers which are found in that tendency to centralization observed in the history of France. He believed that there was always danger practically in that simplicity and symmetry of form which has such attractions to the Gallican mind. He thought that all genuine liberty was to be bought with a price, and that some sacrifices were to be made, and some advantages were to be given up, in order to enjoy the priceless boon of constitutional freedom. With him, liberty and equality were not convertible terms. In his judgment, civil liberty was dependent upon certain organic political institutions, upon a division and distribution of powers, and upon the independence of the great departments of government. He was fully aware of the danger of despotic or irresponsible power, even under popular forms. He had the highest reverence for the true rights of man, and was always on the side of right as against arbitrary power, under whatever form or whatever pretext it might be put forth.

Although a German born, no Englishman and no American

ever understood more thoroughly than he the nature and character of Anglican liberty, or valued it more deeply. In the works I have mentioned, and in many others of a similar kind, he expounded his views with great range of learning, depth of thought; and force of statement. They form a rich quarry in which students will always find precious products.

But it is true, and I think he himself felt it, that Dr. Lieber has not as yet received all the recognition that he deserved, as a writer upon juridical and political questions. And the reason of this was, that the skill of the workmanship was not equal to the value of the materials. Macaulay says of Niebuhr, that he would have been the greatest of historians if his power of expounding truth had been equal to his power of investigating it. Dr. Lieber labored under somewhat the same disadvantage as his illustrious countryman and friend. This was undoubtedly, in part, owing to the fact that he was obliged to write in a foreign tongue. In his preface to his "Manual of Political Ethics" he speaks, with a touch of pathos, of the difficulty a man labors under who is obliged to write in a language he did not learn at a mother's knee; but I doubt whether Dr. Lieber would have been a good writer even in his own native tongue. He lacked constructiveness and the power of lucid statement, — qualities which the French writers who have treated subjects like his own, and especially Montesquieu and De Tocqueville, who were kindred spirits to him, have in such perfection.

And yet there are to be found in his writings many pointed and vigorous sentences, many condensed aphorisms, many striking statements, and especially many happy illustrations, — sometimes not the less happy for being a little homely. And it should be remembered that to him, a man of foreign birth, we owe the introduction into the language of a word which was immediately adopted, and clothed with all the rights of natural descent. This is the word *jural*. Dr. Lieber was the first to define a state as a *jural* society; that is, a society founded on the idea expressed by the Latin word *jus*, which cannot be translated by any one English word. He felt a little proud of this; and I think he would have been pleased if some of the writers who used it after him — Dr. Whewell, for instance — had told where they had found it.

Dr. Lieber loved his adopted country with a love all the stronger from his experience of other countries and other institutions. During the war, his loyalty burned with a fervid and steady flame, fed not merely by his intense feeling of nationality,

but by his observation of the evils of slavery during his many years' residence as professor in the college in Columbia, S. C.

Dr. Lieber was a man of various and versatile power. Besides a number of works on legal and juridical subjects, he wrote "The Stranger in America," "Reminiscences of Niebuhr," an essay entitled "The Gentleman," a paper on the vocal sounds of Laura Bridgman, and a small volume of poems.

In summing up his claims to honor and remembrance, we should not omit the fact that he, a German born, was chosen a Corresponding Member of the French Academy of Moral and Political Science, on the strength of writings in the English language. This was a rare distinction, and indeed, so far as I am aware, without a parallel.

But the full measure of Dr. Lieber's abilities and attainments could be taken only by those who knew him personally and well; for there was much in him that did not go into his books. Among other qualities, he had a strong sense of humor and a quick perception of the ludicrous, which appeared alike in his correspondence and his conversation. He was a copious and an excellent letter-writer. In conversational power, I have never known his superior, and rarely his equal. He had thought much, read much, and seen much; and his memory firmly retained all that was ever intrusted to its charge. In common conversation he poured forth the wealth of his mind without weariness and without stint. When in the society of those with whom he was in harmony, he was one of the most genial, the most instructive, the most delightful of companions: but it was essential that he should be thus surrounded; for, though a strong man in body and mind, he was also sensitive, and an uncongenial presence acted unkindly upon him. He made and had many warm friends; but all with whom he came in contact were not friendly. His affections were strong, but so were his prejudices. He was impatient of contradiction, and not tolerant of opposition. It was painful to his spirit when those whom he loved did not agree with him.

His was a noble life, — not without struggle and disappointment and hopes unfulfilled and aspirations unsatisfied, but rich in effort and in endurance; and he leaves a name and record which will not pass away.

The President said that, during a little journey from which he had just returned, he had seen on the dinner-table of Mr. George L. Schuyler, at Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., a massive silver vase with the following inscription:—

Presented by
ANNE, Queen of England,
to

Col^l. PETER SCHUYLER of Albany,
In the Province of New-York :
April 19th 1710.

To commemorate his visit to England by request
of the Provincial Government, accompanied
by Five Sachems of the
Mohawks.

This Colonel Peter Schuyler was the son of the first emigrant of the name, and grand-uncle of General Philip Schuyler, the well-known patriot and hero of the Revolution, whose Life is just about being published, in two volumes, by Mr. Lossing.

Colonel Peter Schuyler was distinguished for his influence over the Indians, and in 1710 took five chiefs to England with him, at his own expense, in order to rouse the British Government to more active and vigorous measures against the French in Canada.

The President also called attention to a new number of the "Proceedings" from September, 1871, to May, 1872, inclusive, just issued.

Dr. ELLIS said the committee on the Hutchinson Papers and the Attorney-General of the State had not been able to agree on an arbiter for the settlement of the pending questions. The Attorney had objected to the names proposed by the committee, and had offered another name which the committee were not prepared to accept. After some discussion, the name of Professor Charles S. Bradley, of Providence, was agreed upon by the Society to be proposed to the Attorney-general; the Society again clothing their committee with full powers in the matter of an arbiter.

Mr. SIBLEY read a letter from Rev. John Marrett, of Woburn, to Rev. Isaiah Dunster, of Harwich, giving an account of the affair of Lexington of the 19th April, 1775.

Mr. WHITMORE communicated a paper on the origin of the name of the Town of Lexington, Mass.:—

On the Origin of the Name of the Town of Lexington, Mass.

In the admirable History of the Town of Lexington, by our learned associate, Hon. Charles Hudson, there will be found on pp. 422-424 his explanation of the origin of the name. The subject is worth a little attention, since, as the author says, "Lexington has become a watchword for freemen through-

out British America"; and "twenty-two counties, cities, and towns of the name are scattered over every section of our wide country."

There being confessedly no authoritative explanation of the reason for the selection of this name, when the town was incorporated, March 20, 1712-13, Mr. Hudson considers that it was given in honor of Robert Sutton, second and last Lord Lexington, who died in 1723. This surmise is fortified by the assertion that "a custom is said to have prevailed in Massachusetts in those days, when a town was incorporated, to pass the Order or Act, and send it to the Governor with a blank for the name to be filled by him." He adds that the then governor was Joseph Dudley, who was a friend and relative of Lord Lexington, the Dudleys being of the Sutton family; and so the name "given to this town would, if given by the Legislature, be a compliment to the Governor, and if given by the Governor himself would be a compliment to his friend and relative."

To most of these assertions I must oppose a denial. In the first place there is no proof that Governor Joseph Dudley was related to Lord Lexington. All that is known of the pedigree of the American Dudleys is, that Governor Thomas Dudley was born in the town of Northampton, and was the son of a Captain Roger Dudley who was slain in the wars. Here the pedigree stops absolutely, and thus far no additional light has been thrown on it. It has been supposed, but never proved, that Roger Dudley was the great-grandson of Edward, second Baron Dudley; but even if this were true, the connection with Sutton is very remote. It is generally held by the heralds that Rowland de Sutton of Aram married about A.D. 1250 the sister and co-heir of Robert, Baron Lexington, a title which was soon extinct. In one line from this marriage came the Suttons, — Barons Sutton of Dudley, created in 1342; and in another the Suttons of Aram, created Baron Lexington of Aram in 1645.

If Governor Dudley's pedigree were substantiated, he would have to reckon five generations to Edward, second Baron Dudley; two more to John Dudley, fourth Baron Sutton of Dudley, and first Baron Dudley; and at least eight generations more, or fifteen in all, to find an ancestor in common with Lord Lexington.

Considering the glories which rightly cling to the name of Dudley in England, we may well doubt if Governor Dudley would have sought so remote a kinsman to honor with a compliment.

As to their being acquaintances and friends, there is no reason to suppose it. I believe that no document or report points to any such personal knowledge, and it must be dismissed as a pardonable but unproved surmise.

In the next place, there is no evidence that Governor Dudley had any thing to do with naming the town. I have made very careful search in regard to this matter of names given by our Provincial Governors, and I am convinced that it became a practice only under Governor Bernard. Many of the towns were incorporated by resolves, and not by special acts; and I have examined all of the engrossed acts of town incorporations under the second charter. I will not take the space to detail the results of my search, but will repeat that the custom of passing the act with the name in blank did not begin before 1732. In that year (Mass. Rec. xv. pp. 265, 271, 280) the acts for Townsend and Harvard were passed in blank, sent down engrossed, read three times and passed to be enacted still in blank. The name of Harvard is written in by Secretary Willard. After this time it became of more frequent occurrence, and the earliest handwriting of a governor on the engrossed act is possibly that of Belcher. My present impression is that Shirley wrote three or four. When we come to Bernard, however, the case is different. During his term, 1760-1769, there were 39 towns formed in Massachusetts, 32 by act, and of these 26 have the names written in by Bernard. In what is now Maine, 10 towns were made, 6 by act, of which Bernard wrote 5. Governor Hutchinson acted in the same way. Under his rule in both States 26 new towns were created, 16 by act, and of these 13 were written by him.

It seems, then, that Mr. Hudson was rightly informed that the Provincial Governors did supply largely the local nomenclature. But he was in error in supposing that this was the case in 1713, as the custom was not in force till a half century later.

To sum up thus far, it seems that Mr. Hudson's reasoning is wrong, because in the first place there is no proof that Dudley was acquainted with Lord Lexington; secondly, no evidence that they were relatives at all; thirdly, if related, the connection was extremely remote; and fourthly, a certainty that the Governor, as such, had nothing to do with the name, and no evidence that Dudley, as an individual, had any connection with it.

But, after all, the name had some reason for being. The large English Gazetteers do not contain the name of Lexington

as now existing, but refer it to the present name of Laxton. This is a parish in Nottinghamshire, and is otherwise called Laxington with Moorhouse. It is ten miles from Newark, contains 3,610 acres, 126 houses, and in 1841 the population was 642.

This is clearly the source of our name, since the Lord Lexington derives his title from this place; and so Mr. Hudson's theory would give us the same derivation at second-hand.

In Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire, published in 1677, p. 373, he treats of "Laxton, Lexington, and Moorhouse." It appears that there were two manors, one termed Laxton and the other Lexington; but possibly these are mere variations of the same word, otherwise termed Lessinton and Lexinton. In Henry III.'s time, Robert de Lexington, Baron of Tuxford, was a judge; his brother, John de Lexinton, was Lord Chancellor, 1238 and 1247; and Henry de Lessinton, another brother, was Bishop of Lincoln in 1254. This family, however, ended in the male line in that generation; and one of the sisters of Lord Lexinton married Robert de Sutton of Aram, and inherited a part at least of the property.

After twelve generations the representation of the family came to Robert Sutton of Aram, who was in 1645 raised to the peerage. In memory of the great family of which he was a co-heir, he took the title of Lord Lexington of Aram. His son, the second Lord, died in 1723, leaving an only daughter, Bridget, wife of the third Duke of Rutland. The title became extinct, but the estates came eventually to George Manners, third son of Bridget, who took the additional name of Sutton. From him were descended Charles Manners-Sutton, Archbishop of Canterbury; Thomas Manners-Sutton, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, created Lord Manners in 1807; and Charles Manners-Sutton, Speaker of the House 1817-1834, created Viscount Canterbury in 1835.

The question still remains, Why was this name chosen in 1713 for a little town in Massachusetts? Having removed the special and specious reasons adduced by Mr. Hudson, was the then Lord Lexington a man worthy of such a compliment, and was it customary then to name our towns for distinguished Englishmen?

As to the first point, I cannot find that this nobleman was pre-eminent. In 1851 there was published a volume entitled "The Lexington Papers," being extracts from his correspondence, then recently discovered by accident.

It seems that Lord Lexington was made a member of the

Privy Council in 1691; was employed in the Diplomatic Service; was Envoy to Vienna, 1694–1697; one of the Council of Trade and Plantations, 1699–1705, but not after that time; one of the Lords of the Bedchamber; Ambassador to Spain, 1712–1714; and was “named as likely to hold high office in the Government about to be formed under the auspices of Lord Bolingbroke,” when Queen Anne died. He was severely censured in the Report of Mr. Walpole’s committee, but escaped the impeachment which befell Oxford, Bolingbroke, and Strafford. The remainder of his life was passed in retirement, and he died Sept. 19, 1723, aged sixty-two years.

Waiving the point whether Lord Lexington was so distinguished that his name would be selected, — and I for one should contend that he was not, — I desire to call attention to another important part of the case. It is clear that if he were distinguished at all in 1713, it was as a member of Bolingbroke’s party, the ultra Jacobites, the Tories who were ready to place the Stuart Pretender on the throne instead of King George.

But Hutchinson, under date of 1714 (*Hist. of Mass.*, ed. 1767, vol. ii. p. 209), writes as follows: —

“The secret designs of Queen Ann’s last ministry were nowhere more suspected, nor more dreaded, than in the Massachusetts; and the first of August was nowhere celebrated with greater joy during the whole of the king’s reign.”

I think, therefore, that we may safely assume that, if the Legislature of Massachusetts desired to compliment any English statesman, the choice would not have fallen on one of Bolingbroke’s friends.

Having attempted to show that, if a custom prevailed of naming towns for living statesmen, the choice would not have fallen on Lord Lexington, I have farther to urge that there is no evidence of such a custom. Of course we may leave out of consideration the towns named under the first charter, many of the names evidently being given by the emigrants. But from 1689 to 1724 it is hardly possible to find any trace of a custom of honoring living Englishmen in this way.

The towns named were Little Compton, Freetown, Rochester, Tiverton, Harwich, Attleborough, all before 1695; Framingham (1700), Dracut (1702), Brookline (1705), Plympton (1707), Truro (1709), Pembroke, Norton, Needham, Weston, Dighton, Abington, Chatham, Leicester, Northfield, Rutland, Lexington (1711–1713), Medway, Oxford, Chilmark, Sun-

derland, Sutton, Littleton, Hopkinton (1713-1715), Westborough, Brookfield, and Bellingham (1717-1719).

From 1724 — when Holliston, Walpole, and Methuen were named — we begin to see a system in use of complimenting distinguished Englishmen; but before this I can see no trace of the custom. In this list of thirty-two towns, Abingdon or Abington and Lexington are the only two which could reasonably be considered especially personal. Oxford was indeed the title of the Prime Minister; but it occurs with Leicester and Rutland, and we may well consider that the English counties were meant. Sunderland is the name of a large seaport as well as of a peerage, and Sutton* is the name of sixty English parishes. As to Abington, there was, indeed, living in 1711 Montagu Bertie, second Earl of Abingdon, one of over sixty Privy Councillors. As there are three or four Abingtons in England, I prefer to seek the origin of our name in one of them, rather than to suppose this utterly obscure peer was thus selected for honor.

I hope, then, that having settled that Governor Dudley had nothing to do with giving the name, I have shown that the Legislature before 1724 did not have a custom of selecting the names of English statesmen for the new towns, and that certainly had they made such a choice, it would not in 1713 have fallen on a high Tory like Lord Lexington. I trust that I have wholly disproved the supposition to which my learned friend was driven by the necessity of accounting in some way for the name of our famous town. I would add that the derivation was a very plausible one, and only to be questioned after an examination of the whole subject of our local nomenclature, which could hardly be demanded of the historian of a town.

But if we reject the mediation of Lord Lexington, can any reason be given for the choice of this obscure hamlet in Nottinghamshire for commemoration here? I will propound a theory in reply, confessing, however, that it is not supported by the desired evidences. It is very certain that our first settlers gave to their new homes, in many instances, the names of the villages whence they had emigrated. We do not find the cities and great provincial centres thus remembered, but

* At first sight the names Sutton, Lexington, Leicester, and Rutland seem to favor Mr. Hudson's theory. But I have explained Sutton and Leicester, and I would add that the marriage of the heiress of Lexington to the Duke of Rutland was not until 1717, or some four years after the naming of our towns. Coincidences bear many interpretations.

the little places in which their recollections centred. Research in such cases proves that some one of the settlers had thus the honor and pleasure of perpetuating the name of the home of his youth. I venture to suggest that in the same way Lexington may have been the renewal of the name of the English home of some one of the settlers. Although not incorporated till 1713, Lexington was set off as a precinct in 1691, in accordance with a petition made in 1682. At that time the settlement was known as the North Precinct or Cambridge Farms; terms of no particular force, being merely descriptive of a part of Cambridge.

A search of the parish records of Lexington or Laxton, England, made by Colonel Joseph L. Chester, shows clearly that, with one exception, none of the first settlers at our Lexington bore names found there. In the order for the boundary line in 1684, confirmed in 1691, it was placed "on the south side of Francis Whitmore's house towards the town of Cambridge aforesaid"; that is, so as to enclose his house in the new town. In 1713 the order incorporating the town of Lexington recited this order, and therefore repeats the name of Francis Whitmore.

Without putting too much stress on this prominence given to his name, it is fair to point out that the limits of the town were fixed during the lifetime of Francis Whitmore, and that the incorporated name was taken during the residence of his son Samuel on the same land.

Francis Whitmore was one of the early colonists, born in 1625, presumably in England, and could it be shown that he was born in Lexington, England, it would be a moral certainty that we have found the cause of the name here.

Unfortunately the evidence on this point is still wanting, but something can be said in favor of the probability. Early in the seventeenth century the chief family at Laxton, Notts, was that of Roos. Francis Roos, of Laxton, who died in 1577, had, besides male descendants who continued the name, a daughter, who married Thomas Whitmore. Their son was Rev. Francis Whitmore, of Bingham, county Notts, whose son, Francis Whitmore, was of London chiefly, but whose will, proved in 1649, styles him of Laxton.

We can say, then, that there was in 1649 a Francis Whitmore, of Laxton or Lexington, England, and a Francis Whitmore, of Cambridge, Mass., at the same time. That this last-named Francis lived in that part of Cambridge, which, in the lifetime of his son, was called Lexington. However fallacious coincidences may be, the absence of all other reasons

for the naming of this town may lead us to attach some importance to this concurrence of names. When we find a town named, as Groton was, by one of the emigrants in honor of his own home, the connection is evident. On the other hand, when we find Colonel Richard Lee, an emigrant to Virginia, naming his plantations Ditchley and Stratford, we feel sure that he must be a relative of the Lees of those places in England. In the case of Lexington, we have neither the certainty that Francis Whitmore named it, which would argue that he belonged to the family there at Laxton, nor any proof that he was of that origin, which would make it reasonable to think he revived the name of Lexington here. All that can be said is, that there was some reason for the name; if Francis Whitmore were born at Laxton, England, that would be sufficient reason; that Lord Lexington had nothing to do with the matter; and so for lack of certainty the question must still remain unsettled.

Mr. APPLETON communicated a number of letters of the celebrated Paul Jones, principally addressed to Captain Hector M'Neil; also some letters of Captain M'Neil himself.

The Publishing Committee have selected the following for publication in the Proceedings:—

*Hector M'Neill to Samuel Adams.**

SIR,—Although I know that your time is constantly taken up with matters of importance, yet I cannot help begging your attention for a few moments to the case of a person now under distress in this City whose situation formerly I was well acquainted with.

I believe you are no stranger to the deplorable circumstances our army in Canada were reduce'd to, immediatly after the death of General Montgomrie.

I my self am a witness, of the amazing fortitude and perseverance of that handfull which remained under Gen^l Arnold, who with a number much less then half the Garrison, kept up the Blockade of Quebec for some months untill reinforcements arived from these States: it was at that critical time the General stood in great need of the assistance and friendship of the canadians, who although they were well disposed towards the american army, and their cause, yet were frightened by their preists, who threatned them with Excommunication, and had actually refused evrey church privelidge to any who served or inclined to serve on the side of the Americans; On this occasion the person above spoken of step'd forth, and offerd his services as a cler-

* The address "To the Hon^{ble} Samuel Adams" has a pen drawn through it. The letter is labelled, "Copy to M^r — on Lobeniers Situation Jany 14th 1779."—Eds.

gey-man for the canadians, which good pollicy, and the Exigency of our affairs, inclined the Gen^l to accept, and M^r Lobenier was accordingly appointed chaplain to a Canadian Reg^t, much to the satisfaction of those poor men, who thought their eternall fillicity depended on the assistance of a preist.

It is beyound a doubt that the part M^r Lobenier had taken renderd him obnoxious to the Brittish, consequently he was obliged to quit his native country with our retreating army and throw himself on the mercy of a people whose part he had taken in the darkest hour of their distress.

Since his arival in this City he has enjoyed, by the Bounty of congress, a small pittance, which has made his Exile Tollerable untill the setting in of the present Winter; but as the times grow worse, even with those who have much greater Resources then this poor Gentleman can possibly have, so has it fallen heavily on him; for ever since the Last of november he has been retrench'd of fire and candle, which at this pinching season of the year are undoubtedly among the Necessarys of Life; Espacially to a man in his situation, burthened with age, an utter stranger among us, and totally unable even to begg in our Language.

I know this man as a Gentleman, to belong to one of the Greatest familys in canada, and as a clergyman I believe the only one of that country honoured with the Religious Cross of Malta; I know also that he enjoyed a Liveing worth between four and five hundred pounds sterling a year, besides a Patrimonial Estate, all which he has Lost through his friendship for the americans. What pity it is then, that in addition to the sacrifices he has made for our sakes, he should be sufferd to pine away in want and misery, dureing his Exile from his friends and Countrey—in short I am shockd at the idea of the consequences this mans case may produce hereafter; a time may come once more when we may stand in need of the Freindly offices of the canadians, who I fear instead of assisting us, will have reason to take warning, and reproach us with the unhappy fate of the Refugees from that country, many of whom are now Exposed to Extream poverty, and Little or no Notice taken of their sufferings.

I think it my Duty to make you acquainted with M^r Lobenier's Case in particular, not doubting of your disposition for doing all the Good you can on evrey Occasion.

I am Sir, with due Respect & Defference,

Your most Obed^t Serv^t,

HECTOR MCNEILL.

PHILADELPHIA, January 14th, 1779.

Paul Jones to Hector McNeill.

PORTSMOUTH, New Hampshire, March 21st 1782.

I am honored, my dear friend, with your favors of the 7th by Post and by M^r Brown. I need not tell you I am sorry for the difficulties that seem to stand in the way of what I mentioned respecting you to the Minister of Finance and of the Marine; who wrote me he had

given Orders to Mr Brown in consequence. Mr Brown has not shewn me his Orders, and I cannot ask him how far they extend; but when we take leave of each other I will mention your subject and say every thing I can on the occasion. I think he will do whatever may be consistent with his Orders. — I am greatly obliged by your kind intention of honoring me with a visit here. If this could be done consistent with Business, I should be earnest in Urging it; but purely as a compliment to me, however flattering it is, I must not — I cannot expect it. If your Business should bring you to Newbury, it would be easy for me to meet you there; and if you could then conveniently come on with me to Portsmouth to see the America and spend a few Days with your Friends here, I should be very happy in your Company. — It is probable that Business may bring me to Boston in the summer, so that I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you at all events before I again leave the Continent. I am happy to hear Mr McNeil and your Family are well, and pray you to return them my respectful Compliments. — Excuse the liberty I take of enclosing a Guinea which I pray you to *Invest* in good Hair Powder, and ship it to my address, on a Coasting Vessel said to be now at Boston and bound here. *Entre nous* there is none of that Luxury to be had here; except such as is impregnated with Luxurious Mites. I am always

Your affectionate

PAUL JONES.

HECTOR McNIEL, Esq., Boston.

Same to the Same.

PORTSMOUTH, May 25th 1782.

I am honored, my dear friend, with your esteemed favor of the 20th. I am altogether in the dark about what has been done or is doing to re-establish the credit of our Marine. In the course of near Seven Years service I have continually suggested what has occurred to me as most likely to promot its honor and render it serviceable to our Cause; but my Voice has been like a cry in the Desert: I know no remedy but patience. No man can be more in suspence than I am — and my reason as well as my feelings correspond with yours in lamenting the protraction of Justice to men who have merited the smiles of the Sovereign Authority. Whatever I have written or may Write to you on so delicate a Subject must be *in confidence* — I fondly hope the times will mend, and that Merit and Abilities will yet find encouragement; but were I used ever so ill I determin to persevere, till my Country is Free. When I hear any thing farther I shall not fail to write you, meantime present my affectionate respects to your family and believe me

Your

PAUL JONES.

N.B. I duly received the Hair Powder; which is very good and is a great favor.

HECTOR McNIEL, Esq., Boston.

*Same to the Same.*PORTSMOUTH, N. Hampshire, Sept. 17th 1782.

Your Letter, my dear friend, by Monsieur Ravy, was delivered to me by that Gentleman Yesterday. I conducted him and his companion over the River to see the America, but as he departs this morning I am precluded from showing him the attentions due to every recommendation of yours. I expect we shall launch the America within four weeks, and the present prospect of affairs leaves me some room to think I may shortly visit Boston. You will believe the pleasure of seeing you and yours well will not be my *least* inducement. I am sincerely and affectionately

Your friend,

PAUL JONES.

HECTOR McNEIL, Esq., Boston.

The President spoke of the intended visit to Boston of our distinguished Honorary Member, Mr. Froude, and hoped an opportunity would occur for the members to pay their respects to him.

NOVEMBER MEETING, 1872.

A stated meeting of the Society was held on Thursday evening, the 14th instant, at the residence of the Hon. John Amory Lowell, No. 7 Park Street, at which the distinguished historian, Mr. Froude, was present as an Honorary Member. Before introducing him to the Society, the President, the Hon. ROBERT C. WINTHROP, took occasion to refer to the great calamity under which our city was suffering, and to recount something of the history of Boston in the olden time, as affording consolation and courage for the present hour. He spoke as follows:—

Gentlemen of the Massachusetts Historical Society:—

I must beg your attention for a few moments. I have promised our distinguished guest that, after the fatigue of the interesting lecture which he has just delivered at the Tremont Temple, he shall not be involved in any ceremonious utterances again to-night. But as we desire that our meeting shall be a matter of record, and that his name may be entered among those present, if not as taking part in its proceedings, I am